

substitute therefore - While the lubricant may be incorporated into the collagen gel at the gel manufacturing level, such as described in publication WO-A-93/12660, this method has several drawbacks."

IN THE CLAIMS

Attached is a new set of renumbered claims 1-14.

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the acknowledgement in the Preliminary Examination Report of the novelty and inventiveness of claims 1-8 and 10-15. Applicant has amended the defects in the applications cited in items VII and VIII of the report. In particular, Applicant has cited reference D-1 (WO-A-93/12660) on page 4 of the Specification, as required in item VII(1). Applicant has amended page 4 of the Specification to eliminate any lack of clarity regarding the application of the lubricant to the gel at the time of manufacture, as required by item VIII(1).

Applicant has also renumbered the claims as claims 1-14 as required in item VII(2), and has corrected the antecedent support problem in claim 12, as required in item VIII(2).

Accordingly, the application is believed to be in form for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Kirk M. Hartung, Reg. No. 31,021
ZARLEY, McKEE, THOMTE, VOORHEES
& SEASE

CUSTOMER NO. 22,885

Attorneys of Record

801 Grand Avenue - Suite 3200

Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721

515-288-3667 phone

515-288-1338 fax - bja